

REMARKS

I. Introduction.

Claims 8, 9, 11-13 and 15-18 are currently pending in this Application, of which claim 8 is independent. Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are condition for allowance.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Claims 8, 9, 11, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,562,286 to Lehman (hereinafter “*Lehman*”). At least for the reasons discussed below, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited art.

Applicant respectfully submits that *Lehman* does not disclose each and every limitation of independent claim 8. In particular, *Lehman* does not disclose or even suggest a molten metal pump including a superstructure and a plurality of support posts, wherein each support post comprises (1) a first portion comprising a first width and configured to extend through an opening in the superstructure for interfacing with a post clamp (*see, e.g.*, portion 34B in Fig. 1A and ¶¶26-29 of Application) and (2) a second portion comprising a second width greater than the first width, wherein the superstructure is supported at least in part by the top surface of the second portion of each support post. *See, e.g.*, Application, Fig. 1A.

In particular, the embodiments in Figures 2 and 9 of *Lehman* (cited by the Office Action) show the narrow portion (labeled “52” in Figure 2 and “82” in Figure 9) of a post engaging coupling 60 underneath a superstructure (labeled “56” in Figure 2 and “80” in Figure 9). The superstructure is not, however, supported in any way by the top surface of the wider portion of the post (labeled “53” in Figure 2 and “83” in Figure 9). To the contrary, the superstructure is supported well above the top surface of the wider post portions (53, 83) using a through-bolt (*e.g.*, 52a and 76) through the narrower portion of the post (52, 82). Likewise, none of the other configurations in *Lehman* disclose the claimed invention. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that *Lehman* does not anticipate independent claim 8. Claims 9 and 11-13 are dependent on independent claim 8 and are thus believed to be allowable for the same reasons set forth above.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,562,286 (*Lehman*) in view of either U.S. Patent No. 5,330,328 to Cooper (*Cooper '328*) or U.S. Patent No. 5,203,681 to Cooper (*Cooper '681*). As set forth above, *Lehman* does not disclose or suggest the limitations of independent claim 8, upon which claims 15-18 ultimately depend. Applicant respectfully submits that *Cooper '681* does not supply that which is lacking in *Lehman* and therefore the Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and arguments herein, reconsideration is respectfully requested. Applicant believes the case is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims.

Applicant reserves the right to prosecute any cancelled claims or additional claims, including claims of broader scope, in a continuation application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to **Deposit Account No. 19-3878**.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if it would in any way advance prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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